Severall
PROPOSALS
HUMBLY TENDERED
To the *CONSIDERATION*
Of thoſe that are in
Authority,
For the *Eaſe, Security,* & *Proſperity* of this *Common-wealth.*

By *WILLIAM COLE*, a Conſtant Aſſerter of the Rights and Priviledges of the People, and Oppoſer of the late Tyranny and Apoſtacy.

Nehemiah ch. 5. verſ. 14, 15. &c.

I and my Brethren have not eaten the bread of the Governour.
But the former Governours that had been before me, were chargeable unto the People, and had taken of them bread and wine, beſides fourty ſhekels of ſilver: Yea, even their Servants bare rule over the people: but ſo did not I, becauſe of the fear of God, &c.

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Several

PROPOSALS

Several Propoſals *humbly tendred to the Conſideration of thoſe that are in* Authority.

I.

THat it would be very much for the Security of the Nation, and Satisfaction of the honeſt party, to have a review of all the Officers in the Commonwealth; That ſo all thoſe that have been put in Imployments chiefly to ſerve the Luſts and Ends of the late Single Perſon, and in their reſpective places to be Informers, Pimps, and Trapans, both to entrap, and enſnare, thoſe that were Aſſertors of the Native Rights, may be expunged; And that the Fawnings and Flatteries of Time-ſerving men (who are *Terræ Filii*, ſons of the Earth, and will ſerve the worſt of Tyrants in the worſt of wickedneſs, to ſatisfie their Covetous and Ambitious ſpirits) may not be Credited.

2. That men may be imployed not on Principles of favour, but from principles of Ability and Integrity; And that plurality of Offices, either Civil or Military, may be laid aſide: That ſo thoſe men that are brought lowe, either by ſufferings for their Conſtancy, or by loſſe of Trade in theſe ſad Times, may find

in some measure, a way open, to procure a livelihood for their Families.

3. That in Collection of *Customes* and *Excise*, it is convenient, that men of Ability, and Affability, may be imployed, who may also be able to inform the Merchants and others, Why this present *Parliament* is yet inforced to continue these great burthens? and who was the occasion thereof; which will much cool and qualifie the heat, that at present hath much exasperated the people of this Nation against it, by the imperious carriage of insulting Spirits; especially if they may have assurance, that the *Excise* (which is the bane of all Trade and Commerce) may in short time cease.

4. That in regard of the Poverty of the Nation, there may be care taken, to collect all publique Monyes at as cheap a rate as may be, and that whereas some men have vast sums given for Sallaries heretofore, it was more from a principle of Designe than Necessity, that so their Mercenary spirits might be obliged to destroy their Countries rights, and keep a strict hand and eye over the constant honest party: If there be care taken in this businesse, there will be many thousand pounds yearly added to the publique Treasury.

5. That some men of ability and activity may be imployed, Superintendents or Over-seers of the Navies stores in *Chattam*, *Portsmouth*, and *Plymouth*, who may: if they are able and honest, save the State above 40000 l. *per annum*, it being a practice in most of the

Officers

Officers to comply and connive at one anothers Offences; whereby Tymber, Cables, Sayls, Powder, Cordage, Provisions, &c. are usually sold by Officers in great quantities.

6. That the Number of Officers, especially of the *Custome* and *Excise*, and value of their Salaries may be regulatedand lessened; For that in many places the Salaries of the *Custome*-Officers exceeds the Receipts.

7. That the Farming of the *Custome* and *Excise* may forthwith cease; which is so cruelly executed, that there is a general Out-cry against it throughout the three Nations, which much endangereth the Peace of the *Common-Wealth*.

8. That there are 150 Sayl of *English* Ships employed the less yearly by the means of *Martin Noel*'s Farming the Custome of Coals, which very much lesseneth the Number of Shipping, and prejudiceth the increase of Mariners, which is of a very ill Consequence; For that the Shipping are *England*'s Walls; and Saylors, the Garrison to defend them.

9. That it is of Considerable Importance, to employ an able publique-spirited Person to be Governour of the Isle of *Barbadoes*, which at present is, and so like to be, a Trade of great advantage for the expence of the Manufactures of this Common-wealth; if the said Governour shall wisely and uprightly, according to the Act of Trade made by this present *Parliament*, prevent the Importation of the Manufactures of *Holland* and other Countries, at which there hath

been

been of late (as is generally reported) a great connivance either through Bribery, or Neglect.

10. That it will be of very great Consequence to the encrease of Shipping and Navigation, (in some speedy time) to make some free Ports in *England*, whereby we shall be able to Equal and Match the *Dutch* in the Trade of the *Zound* and *Baltique*-Seas, and Equal them with Magazines of Goods to furnish all Parts at as cheap a rate, as the aforesaid *Dutch* or *Hamburgers* shall be able to do.

11. That there may be a Survey of all the penal Statute Laws of the Land, and a brief Collection of them that are profitable and necessary, for the well and peaceable Government of this Commonwealth, owned by this supreame Authory, and all those that are grounded on principles of Tyrranny and Oppression; & repugnant to the Laws of God and reason, and unnecessary or vexatious may be exploded: And that they that are owned may be Printed in one Volume, that so the people may know what is their duty, and not be punished by Trapps and Snares of absolete Laws, through the malice or Subtilty of corrupt Judges or Justices, it being a desperate and cruel priuciple for the Rulers to require obedience to Laws that the People are not capable to understand, and a known Maxime that a Multitude of Laws are a multitude of Fetters to inslave the Ignorant, and destroy the Simple hearted.

12. That seeing the whole Commonwealth is in a Lamentable condition of poverty, Trade almost utterly

terly loſt, and Thouſands of Poor ready to ſtarve. Let Piety, Pity, and deſire of true renown perſwade thoſe that have Thouſands and Hundreds yearly means, to forbear Sallaryes for ſome years, that ſo the People may have food, and the Commonwealth by their examples be encouraged and invited to Charity and Pity. This noble and true Chriſtian practiſe and example was acted by *Nehemiah*, whoſe pattern I earneſtly beſeech our preſent Law-makers to imitate, in freeing this Commonwealth from Bondage, Slavery, and Tyranny; God forbid they ſhould follow *Jehu*, who deſtroyed *Ahab's Houſe*, onely to ſeat himſelf and his poſterity in the Throne.

FINIS.